

CLAIMS:

1. Nucleic acid, in essentially isolated form, said nucleic acid encoding one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, 5 ortholog, part and/or fragment of one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 6 and/or 8.

2. Nucleic acid, in essentially isolated form, said nucleic acid comprising one of the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 7 and/or 9, or a mutant, variant, allele, 10 analog, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof.

3. Genetic construct, comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 and/or of claim 2, and optionally one or more further elements of genetic constructs known per se.

15 4. Host cell or host organism, transformed with and/or containing a nucleic acid according to claim 1 and/or claim 2 and/or a genetic construct according to claim 3.

20 5. Host cell or host organism, (capable of) expressing and/or producing one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, analog, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof.

6. Method for producing one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof, said method comprising at least the steps of:

25 a) expressing a nucleic acid according to claim 1 and/or 2 in a suitable host cell or host organism; and optionally
b) isolating the amino acid sequence thus expressed.

30 7. Method for producing one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof, said method comprising at least the steps of:

a) maintaining and/or cultivating a host cell or host organism according to claim 4 or 5 under conditions such that said host cell or host organism expresses or produces one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof; and optionally

5 b) isolating the amino acid sequence thus expressed/produced.

8. Protein or polypeptide, in essentially isolated form, said protein or polypeptide comprising one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 6 and/or 8, or an analog, variant, allele, ortholog, part and/or fragment thereof.

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9. Method for generating a signal that is representative for the interaction of a protein or polypeptide of claim 8 with a test chemical, said method at least comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a protein or polypeptide of claim 8, or a host cell or host organism of claim 15 4 or 5, with said test chemical, in such a way that a signal may be generated that is representative for the interaction between said test chemical and said protein or polypeptide; and optionally

b) detecting the signal that may thus be generated.

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10. Method for identifying a modulator of a protein or polypeptide of claim 8, for example from a set or library of test chemicals, said method at least comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a protein or polypeptide of claim 8, or a host cell or host organism of claim 25 4 or 5, with said test chemical, in such a way that a signal may be generated that is representative for the interaction between said test chemical and said protein or polypeptide; and optionally

b) detecting the signal that may thus be generated, said signal identifying a modulator of said amino acid sequence.

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11. Modulator of a protein or polypeptide according to claim 8, identified and/or developed using a nucleic acid according to claim 1 and/or 2, a host cell according to

claim 4 and/or 5, a protein or polypeptide according to claim 8, and/or a method according to claim 9 and/or 10.

12. Modulator according to claim 11, being an inhibitor of a protein or

5 polypeptide of claim 8.

13. Pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one modulator according to claim 11 and/or 12 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 14. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, being a composition suitable and/or intended for oral administration.

15 15. Use of a modulator according to claim 11 and/or 12 in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition.

16. Use of a modulator according to claim 11 and/or 12 in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and/or treatment of metabolic diseases.

17. Antibody against a protein or polypeptide according to claim 8.